

height of not less than forty-five feet from the ground. At about 6 a.m. on November 20th, 1921, I noticed a Duck fly from the tree in question, and upon proceeding towards it perceived some object fall from the tree. It was a duckling, but recently hatched. Six more followed; one in falling struck a branch, but reached the ground unhurt. It was really amusing to see them tumble down, one after the other, and then after a few seconds commence a "queek, queek, queek." I caught them and placed them in my hat, and after admiring the pretty creatures, liberated them. They were soon led off safely by the female, which flew around the whole time. I watched this interesting scene in a good-sized patch of bush, not far from the Ruamahunga River, Te Whiti, near Masterton.—R.H.D. STIDOLPH, R.A.O.U., Masterton, N.Z.

* * *

A Strange Nesting-place.—Bird lore is full of stories of strange nesting-places, but perhaps the most singular is that chosen by two sparrows who reside, apparently, somewhere near the Ashburton, N. Z., railway station (says the "Guardian"). They have selected the ventilator of the guard's van used on the Mount Somers train, and there they have built their nest, laid the eggs, and hatched their young. As the van goes with the Mount Somers train to Springburn (a distance of about 30 miles) every evening and returns every morning, it is something in the nature of a puzzle how the fledgelings were hatched. Possibly the mother travelled with the eggs. At the moment, the guard says, the youngsters are very well voiced, and make a chatter on the journey to Ashburton each morning but are quiet at night. Full crops is his explanation of the peace at eventide, and hence he deduces that the parents' permanent place of residence is at Ashburton, N.Z.—R.H.D. STIDOLPH, R.A.O.U., Masterton, N.Z.

* * *

The Red-crowned Pigeon in Tasmania.—On May 15th, 1922, a specimen of the Red-crowned Pigeon (*Ptilinopus regina*) was received at the Tasmanian Museum. As far as we are aware there is no previous record of its occurrence in Tasmania, and it would at first appear as if it was an escapee. It must be remembered, however, that the Purple-crowned Pigeon (*Ptilinopus superba*) appears as an "accidental" on the Tasmanian avifaunal list, and the Top-knot Pigeon (*Lopholaimus antarcticus*) as a "casual." Certain storms may cause these forms to be blown far from their natural geographical habitat, and a percentage of such may reach Tasmania. Unfortunately, the particular specimen which was forwarded to the Museum had been considerably damaged when it was shot and some days elapsed before it was